as available from the RBI for the last few years are shown below:—

Period ending	No. of sick units
December, 1983 . .	80110
December, 1984 . .	93282
December, 1985 . .	119606
December, 1986 .	147740

(b) A number of causes, both internal and external, such as mismanagement, diversion of funds, faulty planning at the initial stage, technological obsolescence market recession, shortage of power and raw materials, industrial relations etc. are responsibile for industrial sickness.

(c) and (d) In accordance with practices and usages customary among banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks information relating to individual constituents of banks is not to be divulged.

(e) To revive the sick industrial units in the country, the Govt. have taken various steps. The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to the banks for strengthening the monitoring system and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time. The banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units on merits of each case. In addition, Government have enacted a comprehensive legislation, namely, "The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985" which provides for setting up of a quasi-judicial body designated as the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to deal with the problems of sick industrial companies in an effective manner. The BIFR has become operational with effect from 15th May, 1987.

Reserve Bank of India have also issued guidelines separately to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units without reference to RBI, both in the large and small scale sectors.

Shortage of essential drugs

3033. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of essential drugs like Rifampicin used for the treatment of tuberculosis and leprosy;

(b) if so, what quantities of these drugs are to be imported to meet the requirement in the next year; and

(c) what steps are being taken to make India self-sufficient in the production of these drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No reports of shortage of Rifampicin were received by Government so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To encourage indigenous production, Rifampicin has been delicensed.

Petrochemical Complex in Madhya Pradesh

3034. SHRI AJIT P. K JOGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the establishment of a petro-chemical complex based on natural gas available from Bombay High; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) whether it is a fact that C-2 and C-3 elements in the natural gas supplied through the pipelines would be available in surplus and therefore to make full use of these elements a Petrochemical complex in Madhya Pradesh would be necessary and justified?